

# DETAILS OF BULGAR CRUELITIES ON POPULATION OF SERBIA TOLD

(Correspondence Associated Press.)  
CORFU, Island of Corfu, Oct. 24.—The funds advanced to Serbia by the United States government are saving the lives of the Serbian people," said the Serbian minister of public works, Dr. Montchillo Nintchitch, who has been charged with the expenditure of the advances from the American government.

Dr. Nintchitch had been telling of the various uses the American money was put to, for the 136,000 Serbian prisoners in Germany and for interned civilians, refugees and pensioners. But now he turned to a story of the cruelty and butchery which the Bulgars are still practicing against the Serbs.

"Serbia has suffered more than any other country," said Dr. Nintchitch, "for not even the ruin of Belgium and the devastated regions of France can compare with what Serbia has suffered. The people of Belgium and France had no means of escape, and they had no ports for escape, and when the Monastir railway line was cut by the Bulgars they had no railway. So they were literally caught in a trap, with no means of egress, and except for those who made the exodus across the mountains the whole peasant population has come under the control of the Bulgar invaders. Moreover, Belgium and France have been under the eyes of England and America, while Serbia is cut off from the world, with no knowledge of what goes on there, and no mail from there for two years.

"The Serbian peasants have been stripped of everything. All their horses, cattle and live stock has been taken, and their farm machinery has been destroyed. Men, women and children have been killed in the most revolting manner, and on the most flimsy pretext. In this the Bulgars go far beyond the Austrians, for the Austrians have a trial and a formal condemnation to death. But the Bulgars have no trial or condemnation. The order to kill is given, and the soldiers are practically free to take life on their own judgment without any order."

As documentary evidence of this killing, the Serbian ministry of foreign affairs have had photographs, copies of which were given to the correspondent, showing six Serb peasants strung up side by side from rough stakes driven in the ground, with a cross-piece above for the noose, while groups of soldiers and officers are gathered about, laughing over the contortions of the victims.

"The Bulgar policy is to consider Serbia and the Serbian people as annihilated," Dr. Nintchitch went on. "To this end they hold that the Serbs no longer exist, and every Serb must become a Bulgar, take a Bulgar name, and become a Bulgar citizen."

"Our minister of war, General Terzitch, has just gone through a trying family experience of this kind. His aged mother, over 70 years old, remained in Serbia after the exodus, as she was too old and feeble to make the journey. All trace of her had been lost, but when she was finally located General Terzitch applied through the relief authorities for her transfer. But to this application the reply has now come back from the Bulgar authorities

that Mme. Terzitch cannot leave the country, as she has become a Bulgar citizen.

"The drafting of Serb peasants as soldiers in the Bulgar ranks is one of the worst forms of cruelty being practiced. This is systematically carried out, with notices posted in all public places telling all men over 17 years of age to report for military duty. This placing of a whole population in the military service of the enemy is an unheard of cruelty, and contrary to every rule of international dealing in time of war. But it is justified by the Bulgars on the theory that Serbia does not exist and that the Serbs are Bulgars."

"A member of the Serbian chamber of deputies was here yesterday, and gave me a harrowing report of his family still in Serbia. One of the boys had already been killed. The second boy had been ordered to become a Bulgar soldier. The mother protested, whereupon she was sent to Nish and put in prison, where she went crazy. Meantime the boy ordered to become a Bulgar soldier had escaped to the mountains and a price has been placed on his head. This experience in the family of the Serbian deputy is merely typical of the thousands we are hearing of from all quarters daily."

"We have received full details of the revolt which the Serbian peasants remaining in the country directed against this Bulgar oppression," the minister continued. "This has come in a letter from a well known teacher. The revolt was really a revolt of women—of the Serbian mothers, wives and sisters—in a frantic protest against having their son, husbands and brothers forced into the Bulgar ranks to fire on the Serbian soldiers. This women's movement became so threatening that a German division at Nish was sent to quell it. When this failed, two Bulgar divisions were sent against the increasing ranks of the revolt."

"This gave the Bulgars the opportunity to perpetrate a new infamy. Sending their troops against the women, they took as prisoners a large number of the wives, mothers and sisters who had protested against their men being taken as Bulgar soldiers. Then these wives and mothers were formed in ranks, placed ahead of the Bulgar divisions, and in this battle order with the Serbian women in front as a screen for the Bulgar troops, these divisions pushed against the main body of the revolting peasants. It was only by such methods of using the women as screens, and by resort to the most extreme cruelty that the revolt was finally put down. In one case, the writer of the letter gives details of seeing a Serbian hung up by the tongue."

The minister spoke of the increasing needs of these Serbian peasants during the coming cold months. Those Serbs who have escaped, and who are here at Corfu and at various Balkan points, can send little or no relief, for they lost everything and have nothing to give.

"It is for this reason," said the minister, "that the funds advanced by the United States government are truly providential, and are saving Serbian lives, thousands of them."

The advance made by the United States was 15,000,000 francs, or \$3,000,000. This was designed to cover

a period of three months, and at this rate the advance for a year would be \$12,000,000 or 60,000,000 francs. The distribution of these funds is under the direction of Dr. Nintchitch, with the American charge d'affaires, H. Percival Dodge, in frequent consultation with him, and exercising American supervision.

In making the expenditures, the first \$3,000,000 has been divided into three parts of \$1,000,000 each. The first million is being employed for the Serbian soldiers held as prisoners in Germany, Austria and Bulgaria, and for the civilian Serbs interned in these countries. Together, these Serb prisoners and interned people get a bare existence in the prison camps where they are held, and anything beyond this bare existence comes from the American funds.

The second \$1,000,000 is used for pensions and relief to the wounded Serbian soldiers no longer able to earn a living, and for the relief of the Serbian peasantry remaining in Serbia.

The third \$1,000,000 will be used mainly for reconstruction work in Serbia, in replacing bridges, roads, etc., which have been destroyed, so that Serbia, once restored to its people, may be brought back, in part at least, to its former condition.

# ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MEAT FOR BRITISH FIGHTERS IN THE FIELD

(Correspondence Associated Press.)  
BEHIND BRITISH LINES IN FRANCE, Oct. 27.—The British army ration scale allows one pound of meat to each man daily to the troops in the trenches, and three-quarters of a pound to those at home. It further requires each soldier at the front to carry a pound of meat in his kit.

The measures by which an army equal to one-fifth of the male population of Great Britain before the war has been supplied with meat on this scale amount to something like a revolution in the technique of army supply.

At the very beginning of the present war it was decided to provide frozen meat for the army and the boards of trade at once entered into negotiations with firms importing meat from the Argentine for a monthly supply of 15,000 tons. Later a "meat committee" was set up, and entrusted with the work of importing meat not only for the British army, but also for the French and Italian governments and for the British civil population.

The principal source of supply at present is the Argentine, with assistance from Australia and New Zealand. Both Australia and New Zealand have reserved their entire surplus supply of meat for the use of the imperial government, and over

\$200,000,000 worth of beef, mutton and lamb has been brought from those countries.

To carry these enormous quantities of meat to the troops the board of trade requisitioned all the shipping engaged in the frozen meat traffic. Some of the meat is taken to England, but the greater part of that required for the armies is landed directly at the base ports, where it is discharged into cold storage warehouses specially erected for the purpose. In this manner there is delivered monthly 30,000 tons of meat for the British armies and 25,000 tons to the armies of Great Britain's allies.

The cost of this meat up to the beginning of 1916 figured out at an average of about 12½ cents a pound, but it has since risen to about 16½ cents.

Requisitioning of fresh meat in France for army purposes is almost negligible, and the herds of cattle which followed armies in old-time wars and were slaughtered as required have disappeared from the field of war.

Frozen meat at present constitutes 60 per cent of the total meat issued to the British army. The remainder is made up of preserved meat of several varieties. The most familiar form is the well known "bully beef," which is corned beef packed

in small oblong tins, each containing twelve ounces. Some units cook their bully beef, others prefer it just as it comes from the tin. It comprised the principal article of diet for the army at Gallipoli.

Another form of preserved ration is a combination of about nine ounces of meat and a half pound of potatoes and other vegetables. This is served after warming up, either by heating in the tin or by boiling the contents in a camp kettle, which transfers it into a fairly appetizing stew. This combination, which is known in army parlance as "meat and vegetable ration," is manufactured in England by about thirty firms, working under the inspection of the local government board.

Another form of preserved ration, adopted from the American armies, is pork and beans. The first supplies of these were obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway company and were introduced on an experimental scale in March, 1916.

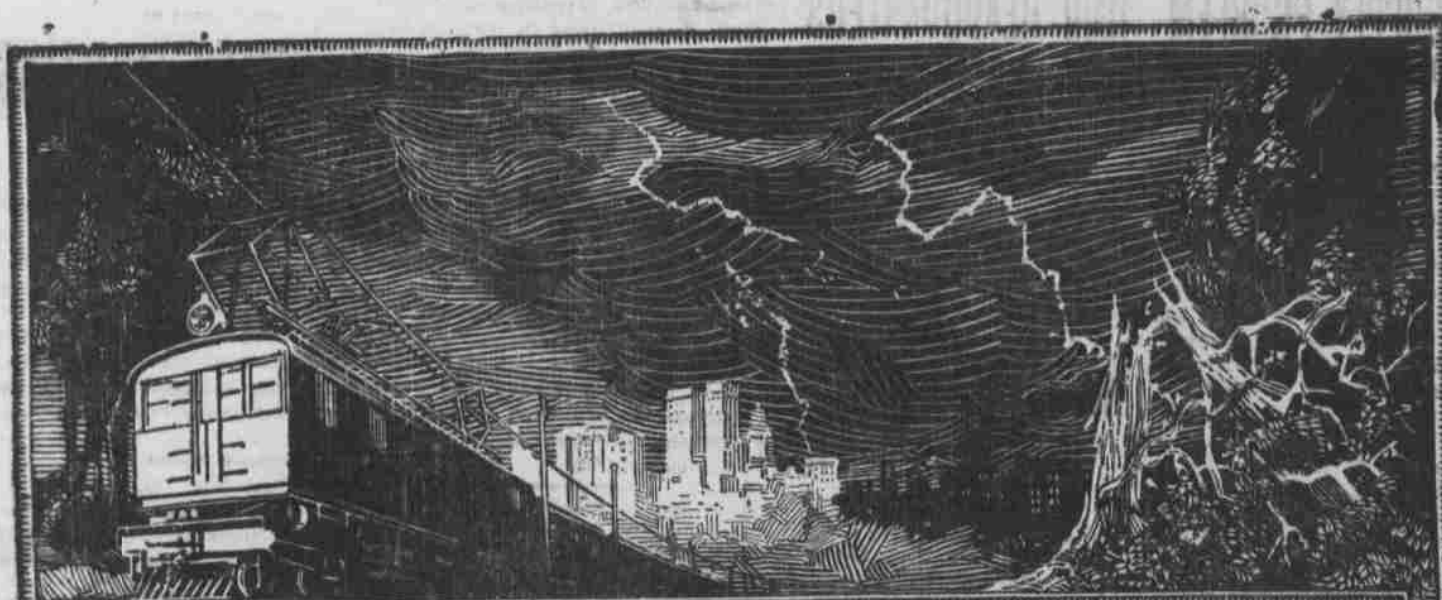
The amount of canned meats supplied to the troops in France is enormous. Three and a half million cans are received weekly at the bases, and since the beginning of the war the army contract department has purchased over 400,000,000 cans of preserved meat. These cans would weigh about 178,000 tons,

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